

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Apr 27, 2021

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RONALD CRAIG ILG,

Defendant.

No. 2:21-MJ-00213-JTR-1

ORDER FOLLOWING
PRELIMINARY AND DETENTION
HEARINGS

**MOTION GRANTED
(ECF No. 7)**

At Defendant's April 21, 2021, preliminary and detention hearings, Defendant appeared while in custody in Court with his Attorney Carl Oreskovich. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Barker represented the United States and also appeared in Court. United States Probation Officer Patrick Dennis was present telephonically.

Defendant, personally and through counsel, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Therefore, on the basis of this waiver and the information contained in the affidavit in support of the Criminal Complaint, **ECF No. 1**, the Court finds probable cause to support the charge in the complaint.

The Court held a detention hearing. Both sides presented argument. FBI Special Agent Ryan Butler was present and testified and was cross-examined.

The Court has considered the Report of Pretrial Services, **ECF No. 8**, the Supplemental Pretrial Services Report, **ECF No. 13**, the testimony of Agent Butler, and the argument of counsel.

1 The United States sought detention, contending that if released, Defendant
2 would present both a risk of flight and a danger to the safety of the community,
3 **ECF No. 7.**

4 **Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142,** this Court has taken into account the evidence,
5 testimony and information produced at this hearing concerning:

6 **I. The nature and circumstances of the offense charged**

7 In support of the charge of Attempted Kidnapping, the United States produced
8 testimony of a Special Agent of FBI to effect that Defendant solicited operatives on
9 the so called “Dark Web” and paid or made arrangements to pay them with \$40,000
10 in bitcoin to (1) kidnap his estranged wife and persuade her to return to the defendant
11 her husband and be intimate with him a specified number of times in a two week
12 period, and to drop all further divorce proceedings, and to force her cooperation by
13 threatening to kill her dog or assault her father, and inject her with heroin until she
14 was addicted then take photographs and plant drug paraphernalia in her home to use
15 as blackmail, and (2) to assault and injure or break the hands of another individual
16 Defendant does or has worked with (Defendant is a physician). Defendant provided
17 the operatives names and addresses and photographs of the would-be victims.

18 There is also some evidence that, unbeknownst to Defendant, the “operatives”
19 he was communicating with were scammers.

20 These circumstances represent an extraordinary threat to the community and
21 count heavily against release.

22 **II. The weight of the evidence against the Defendant**

23 The evidence includes Defendant’s statements to law enforcement, preserved
24 texts of email conversations with would-be kidnappers, and funds from defendant’s
25 accounts traced to dark web addresses.

26 While this evidence appears strong and weighs against release, by law this
27 factor is accorded the least weight.

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1 **III. Defendant's history and characteristics, including:**

2 **Character** – The Court has little information about Defendant's character that
3 does not appear under other headings in this order. Defendant is a neonatal physician
4 who for unknown reasons in 2020 lost his position as director of a clinic. He seems
5 to enjoy the support of a former wife and family, and his current domestic partner.

6 **Physical and mental condition** – Defendant's PHYSICAL condition appears
7 generally sound, though he appeared in court with a severe black eye, and within the
8 last few days Sheriff's Deputies responded to his home on the report of "an assault."
9 This supports neither release nor detention.

10 Defendant's MENTAL condition is not precisely known but is concerning.
11 Officers responding to his home found him with a suicide note, after taking
12 approximately 46 Xanax pills. The suicide attempt came as a surprise to his
13 family. During the detention hearing it was evident that Defendant had been
14 seeing a psychologist, and his family appears to support mental health intervention.
15 However, the nature and cause of Defendant's mental difficulties, and appropriate
16 treatment measures, are not identified. Mental instability weighs against release.

17 **Family ties** – Defendant appears to have strong family ties, which favors
18 pretrial release.

19 **Employment** – Defendant is presently unemployed. Lack of a means of
20 support or the community ties that employment represents would ordinarily count
21 against release.

22 **Financial resources** - Defendant's monthly income is unknown. Though
23 unemployed, his assets appear to be substantial, including but not limited to
24 owning a home and an orchard. The ability to maintain himself pending trial would
25 support release.

26 **Length of residence in the community** – Defendant has resided in Spokane
27 since at least 2003 and this supports release.

28 **Community ties** – Defendant's ties to the community are substantial,

1 including real estate, children, and in all likelihood professional contacts in the
2 medical community. Such significant ties weigh in favor of release.

3 **Past conduct** – Defendant’s past conduct remains unclear. He has no
4 criminal history, but the evidence to date implies conflict with former spouses,
5 lovers and employers. Without more, these intimations do not support detention.

6 **History relating to alcohol and drug abuse** – Overdosing on Xanax may
7 qualify as drug abuse, but nothing else before the Court indicates difficulties with
8 drugs or alcohol.

9 **Criminal history** – Defendant has no prior criminal convictions, and no
10 record of being charged or cited for any offense whatsoever. This supports release.

11 **Record concerning appearance at court proceedings** – This Court is
12 presented with no evidence that Defendant has failed to appear for any civil or
13 criminal proceedings. This does not support detention.

14 **Whether Defendant was under supervision at the time of the alleged**
15 **offense** – There is no indication that Defendant has ever been subject to court-
16 ordered supervision. This does not support detention.

17 **IV. And the nature and seriousness of the danger to the community posed by**
18 **Defendant's release**

19 Defendant’s release presents a significant risk to community safety. His
20 intelligence, exceptional resources and unstable mental condition have allegedly
21 led him to direct and fund sophisticated attempts to cause permanent career ending
22 injuries, bring pain and humiliation to others, and subvert the legal system.

23 The Court **FINDS** the United States has established by the required
24 preponderance of evidence an absence of conditions or combination of conditions
25 that would reasonably assure this Defendant’s presence at trial and has established
26 by clear and convincing evidence that no conditions or combination of conditions
27 will reasonably assure the safety of other persons or the community.

28 **IT IS ORDERED:**

1 1. The United States' Motion for Detention, **ECF No. 7**, is **GRANTED**.
2 Defendant shall be held in detention pending disposition of this case or until
3 further order of the court.

4 2. Defendant is committed to the custody of the U.S. Marshal for
5 confinement separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving
6 sentences or being held in custody pending appeal.

7 3. Defendant shall be afforded reasonable opportunity for private
8 consultation with counsel.

9 4. If a party desires this Court to reconsider conditions of release
10 because of material and newly discovered circumstances pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §
11 3142(f), that party shall file a two-page motion for reconsideration succinctly
12 stating what circumstances are new, how they are established, and the requested
13 change in conditions of release. The motion shall indicate whether opposing
14 counsel or Pretrial Services object, whether a hearing is desired, and whether a
15 supplemental pretrial report is requested. This Court will treat the motion as
16 expedited and submitted without argument and will set a hearing or issue other
17 orders as may be appropriate.

18 5. If a party desires that another Court review this order pursuant to 18
19 U.S.C. § 3145, that party shall promptly file a motion for review before the district
20 judge to whom the case is assigned, as further described in the Detention Order
21 Review Protocol published for the Eastern District of Washington. Both parties
22 shall cooperate to ensure that the motion is promptly determined.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 DATED April 27, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M", is positioned above the name of the judge.

JOHN T. RODGERS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE